allocation to deficit states in accordance with the directions issued by the respective Regional Electricity Boards from time to time.

**Counter guarantee for fast track power projects**

1362. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose extension of limited counter guarantees for a few more power projects, apart from the in-principle counter guarantees extended to the eight fast track power projects;

(b) if so, the eligibility criteria proposed for such limited counter guarantees; and

(c) the likely date from which such counter guarantees will be available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Development of Alternative to X-Rays**

1363. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether scientists at the National Physical Laboratory have developed alternative to X-rays;

(b) if so, the salient features of this discovery; and

(c) how will this benefit the common man?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) scientists at the National Physical Laboratory (NPL) have not developed any alernative to X-rays.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Research and Development under New Economic Regime**

1364. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the press report dated 4th June, 1997 with the caption "R&D lags under the new economic regimes" appeared in the Hindu;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) since under the World Trade Organisation (WTO) dispension, issues relating to intellectual property rights (IPRs) are crucial to safe-guard national interests, whether CSIR laboratories have undertaken annual reviews of the intellectual property that had been licensed;

(d) whether CSIR has any mechanism to monitor transfer of technology and feedback from the end users; and

(e) what concrete steps Government propose to take for improvement of the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) There has been a marginal decline in official estimates of R&D expenditure which refer to expenditure of R&D units registered with Department of Scientific & Industrial Research and expenditure incurred by Central and State